

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 191220Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3520

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 180

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1059

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT LT

SUBJ: CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS

REF : MASERU 1038

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER LEABUA JONATHAN SERVED NOTICE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEP 18 THAT CARLETONVILLE KILLINGS WOULD NOT SOON BE ALLOWED FADE INTO BACKGROUND. READ TELEGRAM FROM SOUTH AFRICAN PM VORSTER GIVING NOTIFICATION OF BASOTHO DEAD AND WOUNDED, EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES, AND SUMMARIZING EVENTS LEAD-
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ING TO SHOOTING. PUBLIC REACTION TO KILLINGS SO FAR MUTED BUT

EMOTION LIKELY AMONG CROWDS EXPECTED AT MASERU AIRPORT WHEN BODIES ARRIVE SEP 20 WHICH DECLARED NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING.

1. ADDRESSING INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEP 18, PM JONATHAN REPORTED HE HAD RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM VORSTER ON KILLING AND WOUNDING OF BASOTHO MINERS AT CARLETONVILLE. STATED TELEGRAM RECEIVED BETWEEN 2:45 AND 3:00 P.M. FRIDAY, SEP 14.

2. IN TELEGRAM, WHICH JONATHAN READ, VORSTER STATED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOOTINGS SAG INVESTIGATED CITIZENSHIP OF DEAD AND WOUNDED AND HAD ONLY JUST LEARNED THAT FIVE BASOTHO KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED. NAMES AND ADDRESSES GIVEN. VORSTER EXPRESSED DEEP PERSONAL REGRET AND SYMPATHY WITH MINERS' FAMILIES AND STATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN LAW A JUDICIAL INQUIRY WOULD BE INSTITUTED URGENTLY. SAID SAG FONMIN ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH CONDOLENCES.

3. SOUTH AFRICAN TELEGRAM INCLUDED SUMMARY OF CARLETONVILLE EVENTS BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE. MAIN POINTS AS READ BY JONATHAN WERE: POLICE WERE NOT INTERFERING IN A WAGE DISPUTE AS SUCH; WHEN POLICEMEN CALLED TO SCENE THEY WERE CONFRONTED WITH INFURIATED MOB HURLING STICKS AND STONES. TEAR GAS FORCED RIOTERS TO RETIRE TEMPORARILY BUT THEY RENEWED ATTACK ON POLICE AND EVENTUALLY SURROUNDED THEM. POLICE THEN FORCED TO OPEN FIRE. STATEMENT ALSO MENTIONED DAMAGE TO MINE PROPERTY AND ATTACK BY MOB ON OTHER MINERS WHICH RESULTED IN ONE DEATH AND SEVERAL INJURIES.

4. JONATHAN PAUSED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO "A VERY INTERESTING POINT" IN SA TELEGRAM. HE NOTED TELEGRAM SAID RIOTERS HAD SURROUNDED POLICE IN EARLY DARKNESS, NECESSITATING USE OF FIRE-ARMS, BUT TELEGRAM ALSO SAID RIOTERS AT SAME TIME WERE CAUSING DAMAGE TO MINE PROPERTY. HE ASKED HOW THE TWO STATEMENTS COULD BE RECONCILED.

5. RETURNING BRIEFLY TO TELEGRAM, JONATHAN READ THAT STATEMENTS FROM ANGLO-AMERICAN (MINE MANAGER AND OPPENHEIMER) WOULD BE SENT TO LESOTHO URGENTLY. JONATHAN NOTED THESE NOT YET RECEIVED BUT DID SAY LESOTHO INFORMED BY ANGLO-AMERICAN BODIES OF MINERS WOULD ARRIVE LESOTHO BY AR AT 12:30 P.M. SEP 20.
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COST TO BE BORNE BY ANGLO-AMERICAN. ANGLO-AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAD REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ATTEND FUNERALS AND WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO SO.

6. JONATHAN ANNOUNCED SEP 20 WOULD BE NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING WITH ALL REQUESTED MEET BODIES AT AIRPORT AND ATTEND LATER SERVICES IN VARIOUS CHURCHES. ALSO ANNOUNCED CARLETONVILLE VICTIMS FUND WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR FAMILIES OF DEAD AND

WOUNDED MINERS AND CALLED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.

7. IN RESPONSE SUBSEQUET QUESTIONS JONATHAN STATED LESOTHO WOULD LOOK INTO WHOLE CARLETONVILLE MATTER INCLUDING PROPOSED SOUTH AFRICAN JUDICIAL INQUIRY IN WHICH, HE HINTED, THERE MIGHT BE DIRECT LESOTHO ROLE. AS INITIAL STEP, LESOTHO DOCTORS WILL CONDUCT POST-MORTEMES. LESOTHO WANTS INQUIRY TO INCLUDE AS WELL UN OBSERVER TO ENSURE JUSTICE BUT JONATHAN NOTED THIS STILL TO BE DISCUSSED WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

8. COMMENT: JONATHAN HAD CHOICE OF PLAYING KILLINGS BIG OR PLAYING THEM SMALL AND HAS CHOSEN FORMER. DO NOT BELIEVE HE POLITICALLY COMPELLED TO DO SO; THERE CONCERN HERE ABOUT DEATHS OF BASOTHO MINERS BUT NOT MUCH REAL EMOTION AROUSED. THIS LIKELY TO CHANGE WHEN BODIES RETURN AND MASS RALLY AT AIRPORT, NUMEROUS SERVICES ELSEWHERE, AUTOPSIES, AND LOCAL FUNERALS ALL SEEM DESIGNED TO HOLD CARLETONVILLE IN PUBLIC EYE.

9. DOUBT LESOTH WILL EVER BE SATISFIED WITH SOUTH AFRICAN EXPLANATION AND BELIEVE JONATHAN AS WELL LAID BASIS FOR FUTURE LESOTHO COMPLAINTS. REJECTION OF EITHER LESOTHO OR UN ROLE IN INQUIRY WOULD PROVIDE GOL WITH AMPLE AMMUNITION TO ATTACH EVENTUAL SOUTH AFRICAN FINDINGS.
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